

State of Michigan
FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD PROGRAM
FREQUENT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q: What is the Foster Care Review Board Program?
- A: **The Foster Care Review Board Program is a system of third party review of abuse/neglect children in foster care, which was established pursuant to 1984 PA 422, as amended by 1986 PA 159, 1989 PA 74, and 1997 PA 170, MCL §§ 722.131-139a; MSA §§ 25.360(1)-360(9a).**
- Q: What does the Foster Care Review Board Program do?
- A: The Foster Care Review Board Program reviews randomly selected, and requested cases of children in foster care for the purpose of determining if the court and agencies responsible for developing and carrying out a permanency plan are effectively and efficiently doing so. The Foster Care Review Board Program also hears appeals from foster parents if they disagree with the movement of a ward from their home.
- Q: What does the Foster Care Review Board Program consist of?
- A: **The Foster Care Review Board Program consists of local citizen review boards throughout the state.**
- Q: Who is subject to a review by the Foster Care Review Board?
- A: **Any and all children who are in the state foster care system due to abuse/neglect.**
- Q: What does it mean to review a foster care case?
- A: **Each case review is conducted in two stages. The first stage involves reading the written materials detailing the reason(s) for out-of-home placement and the agency's plan for services to the child and family. The second stage is an in-person interview with interested parties in the case, such as the caseworker, the biological parents, the foster parents and, if appropriate, the child(ren).**
- Q: How often are cases reviewed?
- A: **Once selected for review, a case is reviewed every six months until a permanent plan is achieved.**
- Q: Does a Foster Care Review Board provide direct services to neglect wards?
- A: **No. Foster Care Review Board members are responsible only for reviewing selected cases, compiling findings of fact, and making advisory recommendations. The written findings and advisory recommendations are provided to the Family Division of Circuit Court and the Department of Human Services and/or its contracted agency. The final decision-making authority with regard to the ward rests with the court.**
- Q: Who comprises the Boards?
- A: **Foster Care Review Boards are comprised of over 200 citizen volunteers who are trained by the State Court Administrative Office.**
- Q: Are members of the Foster Care Review Board paid for their services?
- A: **Foster Care Review Board members are reimbursed for meals and mileage to reviews.**
- Q: What agency is in charge of the Foster Care Review Board Program?
- A: **The Foster Care Review Board Program is administered by the State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court.**
- Q: How is the Foster Care Review Board Program funded?
- A: **The Foster Care Review Board Program is funded with federal Title IV-E funds and state general funds.**